

NEWS

From the Office of

Brad Mitzelfelt

Supervisor, First District
San Bernardino County

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For information, contact
David Zook (909) 387-4830
www.sbcounty.gov/mitzelfelt

New Twentynine Palms Regional Park to be Studied

SAN BERNARDINO – The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors this week took a major step toward developing the first regional park in the Morongo Basin when it released a request for proposals to study potential sites for a park in the City of Twentynine Palms, which would include facilities for off-highway vehicle recreation.

“Park facilities are vital for ensuring quality of life in our communities,” said First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, who requested the study. “Bringing a regional park to Twentynine Palms will provide new opportunities for recreational and healthy activities for children and families. And by providing opportunities for safe, regulated and legal off-highway vehicle recreation, it would reduce the problems of illegal riding about which some desert residents have expressed concerns.”

The existing recreational facilities and parks in the City of Twentynine Palms and on the U.S. Marine Corps base are at capacity.

The San Bernardino County Regional Parks Department will seek a consultant to study opportunities for two sites as part of a proposed regional park within or near the City of Twentynine Palms.

Two specific sites, referred to as the Gold Park site and Marine Base site, have been identified as having the highest initial potential. The feasibility study will evaluate both sites, perform preliminary environmental evaluations, and provide preliminary park and trail design and management recommendations. One site would support community sports (soccer, football, baseball), while the other may be suitable for recreational vehicle camping. A third site, not included in the study, may also become part of the regional park and would provide additional camping opportunities.

The study is expected to take 12 to 18 months to prepare, once a consultant is selected. The final product will be a feasibility study to guide the direction of future park master planning efforts in the Twentynine Palms area.

The cost for the study is not expected to exceed \$50,000. Funds for the study will come from Off-Highway Vehicle License Fees.

In an unrelated item, Supervisors also approved the use of \$1,235,552 of Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus) funds for a project to repave 9.35 miles of Amboy Road south of National Trails Highway.